Setting up of ICAR Centres in Bihar

4439. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICAR has decided to set-up two new centres in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details theeof;

(c) the criteria adopted by ICAR for setting-up new centres in the country;

(d) whether those criteria are followed by ICAR while setting-up new ICAR centres; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ICAR has established two centres in Bihar, one Regional Research Centre of the Directorate of Maize Research at Kushmahout near Begusarai in Bihar and another as Directorate of Water Management Research at WALMI Campus, Patna.

(c) The criteria adopted by ICAR for setting up the new centres in the country are that the critical review of the existing schemes and a serious thinking about important new schemes which are need based.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Inter-State flow of Foodgrains

4440. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed free flow of foodgrains from one State to another to give remunerative prices to farmers and also to remove the scarcity of foodgrains in scarce States, like Gujarat etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) There are, in general, no movement restrictions on paddy/rice in any State/UT except Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir. Similarly, there are no restrictions on movement of wheat except in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan who have been allowed, on their own request, to impose restrictions on Inter-State movement of wheat to maximise the procurement in the current Rabi marketing season 1997-98. For Coarse-grains, the whole country is a single food zone at present.

कुल्लू में उत्तरी शीतोष्ण क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र संबंधी मुद्दा

4441. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार इस बात से अवगत है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश के कुल्लू जिले की गड़सा घाटी में उत्तरी शीतोष्ण क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र कार्य कर रहा है जो केन्द्रीय भेड़ एवं ऊन अनुसंधान मालपुरा राजस्थान के अन्तर्गत आता है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस केन्द्र को उच्चतम दर्जा देने का मामला कई वर्षों से अधर में लटका हुआ है यद्यपि यह केन्द्र सभी मापदंडों के अनुसार दर्जा बढ़ाए जाने की पात्रता रखता है; और

(ग) यदि "ख" भाग का उत्तर हां में हो, तो कब तक इसका दर्जा बढ़ा दिये जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) यह सही है कि केन्द्रीय भेड़ तथा ऊन अनुसंधान संस्थान की वर्ष 1980-84 की अवधि के लिए गठित पंचवर्षीय समीक्षा दल के वर्ष 1986 में परिषद को प्रस्तुत अपनी रिपोर्ट में सिफारिश की थी कि केन्द्रीय भेड़ तथा ऊन अनुसंधान संस्थान के उत्तरी शीतोष्ण क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र का दर्जा बढ़ाया जाये तथा उसे खरगोश तथा अन्य लोम (फर) पशुओं से संबंधित

राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान केन्द्र के रूप में पुनः नामित किया जाय।

(ग) और (घ) भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद ने पंचवर्षीय समीक्षा दल की सिफारिशों पर सिद्धांत रूप में सहमत होते हुए यह सुझाव दिया था कि नयी शुरूआत के लिए अठवीं योजना के दौरान इन सिफारिशों पर विचार किया जाये। तथापि, भा० कृ० अनु० परिषद की योजना समिति होने के कारण आठवीं योजना में इस प्रस्ताव को स्थान नहीं दिया जा सका। नौवीं योजना के प्रस्तावों को अभी अन्तिम रूप दिया जाना है।

Accumulation of fertilizer subsidy dues

4442. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the fertilizer subsidy dues to the industry on the decontrolled fertilizers have accumulated to crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the fertilizer subsidy dues outstanding to the industry at the end of 1996;

(c) the reasons for the non-payment of the subsidy to the fertilizer industry; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) The reimbursement of concession the sale of phosphatic and potassic (p&k) fertilizers to the suppliers is made on the basis of certified reports of sales received from the State Governments. Claims to the tune of about Rs. 34.50 crores are held up for payment against supplies made during 1996-97 by different suppliers to West Bengal due to State Government's non submission of certificate about the quality and quantity in the desired format as prescribed by Government of India. West Bengal Government is being persuaded to submit the bills complete in all respects urgently.

Delay in the implementation of Ad-hoc Subsidy Scheme by the State Governments

4443. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer industry complained of delay in implementing the ad-hoc subsidy scheme by the States Government and fixing the Maximum Retail Price (M.R.P.); and

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the demand of the fertilizer industry for restoration of Retention Price subsidy Scheme and M.R.P.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) From 1994-95 onwards, the State Governments have been negotiating with the concerned agencies and announcing the MRPs for phosphatic and potassic (p&k) fertilizers. However during 1996-97 there was some delay in announcement of the MRPs by some of the State Governments. In order to ensure timely and adequate availability of these fertilizers to farmers at a reasonable price, an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) GOI, was set up to take decision on the MRP of (p&k) fertilizers applicable uniformly, for Kharif 1997 season. Based on the decision of the Empowered Committee, the MRPs of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complexes for Kharif 1997 season have already been communicated to the State Governments. The decision regarding the MRPs of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) has been left to the respective State Governments since the requirement of SSP is met mostly from the local or nearby units.